

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

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LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 EA-11 SS-20 L-03 H-03

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6062

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS -- EC POSITION

REFS: A. GENEVA 6191 (NOTAL) B. GENEVA 6138 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: WE ARE ADVISED THAT THE ARTICLE 113
COMMITTEE, WITH FRANCE ACQUIESCING, HAS AUTHORIZED
THE EC COMMISSION TO EXPLORE WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER
THIRD PARTIES A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO BREAK THE TNC
DEADLOCK. THE APPROACH WOULD INVOLVE: AGREEMENT ON
A LIST OF "TECHNICAL" TASKS ON WHICH WORK COULD BEGIN;
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AGREEMENT ON HOW SUCH TASKS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED

AMONG TNC SUB-COMMITTEES FOLLOWING THE OUTLINE OF THE TOKYO CONVENTION; AND A UNILATERAL COMMUNITY STATEMENT OF ITS POSITION REGARDING THE HANDLING OF ALL AGRICULTURAL ISSUES IN A SINGLE SUB-COMMITTEE. DEPENDING ON RESULTS OF THE SOUNDINGS, THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER FURTHER AT A MEETING ON DECEMBER 5 OR DECEMBER 10. EC COMMISSION SOURCES TELL US THEY EXPECT LONG TO PROPOSE A MULTILATERAL MEETING IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK AT THE SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. AN EC PERMANENT DELEGATION SOURCE THAT MUST BE PROTECTED HAS BRIEFED US ON THE NOVEMBER 22 MEETING OF THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE. FOLLOWING A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, HIJZEN SOUGHT AND OBTAINED AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COMMISSION TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH THIRD PARTIES AND REPORT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE. EC COMMISSION SOURCES, WITH WHOM WE TALKED SEPARATELY, SAY THEY HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED LONG TO INFORM HIM OF THE POSITION AND TO SEEK HIS ADVICE ON HOW NEXT TO PROCEED. THEY ANTICIPATE THAT LONG MAY WISH TO ORGANIZE AN INFORMAL MULTILATERAL (US, JAPAN, EC) MEETING AT THE SENIOR-OFFICIAL LEVEL. THEY THINK SUCH A MEETING MIGHT BE HELD NEXT WEEK AT GENEVA, AND THE COMMISSION WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEND.

3. IN THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT FRANCE ACCEPTED HIJZEN'S JUDGMENT THAT IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE FOR TNC PREPARATORY WORK TO BEGIN IN NON-CONTENTIOUS AREAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE COMMUNITY'S BASIC POSITION ON AGRICULTURE. THE WORK WOULD BE OF A TECHNICAL NATURE IN ANY EVENT. THE UK AND DENMARK IN PARTICULAR PRESSED FOR EARLY ACTION IN THIS SENSE.

4. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, COLLIN, INITIALLY RESISTED AND MADE A LENGTHY RESTATEMENT OF THE WELL-KNOWN FRENCH POSITION TO THE EFFECT THAT NO TNC WORK SHOULD COMMENCE UNTIL THE AGRICULTURAL QUESTION IS SETTLED TO THE COMMUNITY'S SATISFACTION. FINALLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER, COLLIN ACQUIESCED IN THE GENERAL CONCLUSION THAT THE COMMISSION COULD EXPLORE THE ACCEPTABILITY TO OTHERS OF A THREE-PART PACKAGE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. AGREEMENT ON A LIST OF SPECIFIC TASKS OF A TECHNICAL AND NON-CONTENTIOUS CHARACTER ON WHICH TNC WORK COULD BEGIN WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE BASIC POSITION OF ANY PARTY.

B. AGREEMENT ON ASSIGNING THE TASKS TO SIX DIFFERENT SUB-COMMITTEES CORRESPONDING TO THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH THREE OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING NEW SUB-COMMITTEES OR GROUPS LATER ON.

C. A UNILATERAL EC STATEMENT OF ITS VIEW THAT ALL AGRICULTURAL MATTERS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BY ONE SUB-COMMITTEE, ALONG THE LINES OF THE "KITAHAHARA FORMULA".

5. DEPENDING ON PROGRESS OF THE EC COMMISSION'S SOUNDINGS, THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER AGAIN ON DECEMBER 5 OR DECEMBER 10 WITH A VIEW TO WORKING OUT SPECIFIC DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR THE LIST OF TASKS AND FOR THE COMMUNITY'S UNILATERAL STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURE. OUR COMMISSION SOURCES POINT OUT THAT THE COMMISSION MUST STILL FEEL ITS WAY CAREFULLY SINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE HAS STILL NOT ADDRESSED THE LIST OF SPECIFIC TASKS NOR THE TEXT OF AN EC STATEMENT. GREENWALD

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